

**PUTTING THE BIODIVERSITY POLICY INTO PRACTICE
ACTION PLAN LINKED TO THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE**

Category	Action	Area	Activity	Why?	When?	How?
Planning	a. The council, when commenting on planning applications, will support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats or provision of new habitats. b. It will support protection of sensitive habitats from development and will consider whether the development would mean the loss of important habitats for wildlife in respect of all applications. c. It will consider what each proposed development might make in terms of biodiversity net gain. d. It will include policies in support of biodiversity within the neighborhood plan.	The Built Landscape	Ensure that planning consultations are considered against the requirements of the Neighbourhood Plan	Protecting/enhancing habitats Extending habitats. Encourage hedgehog/small animal highways with permeable boundaries	Ongoing	

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Land & Property Management	a. The council will carry out a biodiversity audit of its landholdings	Protect & Support Biodiversity	Encourage suitable planting to support biodiversity.	Connect & diversify habitats to meet the needs of a variety of wildlife species	Ongoing	
	b. The council will consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This will include adopting beneficial practices with regarding to cutting and removal of vegetation, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.	Cemetery / Churchyard	Additional planting Maintain and renew bird boxes as required. Adopt a plan to support wildlife and diversity whilst maintaining the site in a way which enables visitors to experience quiet and calm remembrance. Leave leaf litter and dead vegetation wherever possible as a habitat for invertebrates.	Increased diversity of habitats and food sources Increased cover for invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals. Encouraging insects particularly butterflies and bees.		
	c. Special care will be taken in the specification of grounds maintenance contracts to ensure that the work, whilst reaching acceptable standards, does not harm the natural environment.					
	d. The council will consider biodiversity issues and the implementation of changes when managing its buildings.	Recreation Ground	Sympathetically maintain hedging. Leave some areas unmown. Only use environment friendly pesticides where absolutely necessary and only in ideal weather conditions.	Food sources and cover Encourages insects. Sustain and enhance natural habitats.		
		Common / other open spaces	Adopt a management plan. Encourage residents to remove litter and pick up after their dogs. Work with the county council on verge management, favouring biodiversity but noting which areas may need cutting for highway safety. Encourage residents to adopt areas to look after, making it clear make it clear what is expected e.g. peat free compost and no chemicals.	Sustain and enhance natural habitats. Protecting habitats Protecting/enhancing habitats Regular attention.		

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Local Community	a. The council will raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website and newsletters.	Whole council area	Raise local awareness of biodiversity.	Gain local support for action.	Ongoing	Newsletter, social media, website
	b. The council will engage with local businesses and residents regarding biodiversity in the community and how members of the community can assist and make a difference.	Increase community awareness of biodiversity	Ask residents for their views on what they would like to be done to conserve biodiversity within the parish. Raise awareness of the importance of gardens as habitats for wildlife, with possible actions highlighted in the parish magazine.	Engagement/ownership of biodiversity Promote biodiversity. Extending habitats. Protect nocturnal animals.	Ongoing	Neighbourhood consultation
	c. It will, where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wildflower meadows, birdbox making.		Create a page on the parish council website for photographs / information / links Encourage local farmers to contribute. Provide seed bombs / bulbs etc. for residents' use. Discourage floodlighting.			
		Support Community Projects	Support hedge/tree planting in any appropriate areas. Work in partnership with the school to develop young people's awareness of the environment around them. Consider events and offer volunteering opportunities to support biodiversity, working with local organisations.	Extending habitats. Promote biodiversity. Promote biodiversity.		

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Partners	a. Porlock Parish Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within areas of the village. b. It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of local sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.					